| King County | Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention<br>Adult Divisions<br>General Policy Manual | |
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| | **Chapter 4**<br>**Security and Control** | |
| **4.02.005 – Search of Residents** | Approved By: | Director Allen Nance |
| | Effective Date: | October 28, 2025 |
| | Reviewed By: | PRC, PAO |
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**Purpose**
To ensure that searches of residents are conducted in a safe, secure and professional manner, in order to reduce the risk of harm to staff and residents and ensure compliance with requirements set forth in state and federal laws and by the courts.

**Policy**
All residents will be searched for contraband to ensure the safety of residents, staff, and the public, and to protect institutional security in such a manner as is consistent with state and federal law.

**References**

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| Federal: | Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) |
| RCW: | Chapter 10.79 |
| Department Forms: | Strip Search Form |
| | Officer's Report (F-627) |
| | Supervisor's Incident Report (F-523) |
| Department Policies: | 1.01.008 - Processing Staff Reports |
| | 4.01.002 - Searches and Contraband Control |
| | 4.01.021 - Evidence Collection and Storage |
| | 4.01.023 - Video Recordings |
| | 4.03.009 - Restraints |
| | 4.03.014 - Use of Force |
| | 4.04.001 - Court Remand |
| | 4.04.002 - Hospital Guarding |
| | 6.03.007 - Transgender Residents |
| | 6.04.001 - Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) |
| Other: | Grew v. King County |

**Definitions**
**Pat down search**: When a uniformed staff member pats down the outer surfaces of a person's clothing to determine whether the individual possesses weapons or contraband.

**Strip search:** Having a person remove or arrange some or all of their clothing so as to permit an inspection of the person's genitals, buttocks, anus, or undergarments of the person or breasts of a female person.

**Assisted Dress-out:** Assisting with the removal of a cooperative resident's clothing who is unable to remove their own clothing, without inspection of the resident's body parts.

**Compelled Dress-out:** The compelled removal of an uncooperative resident's clothing without inspection of the resident's body parts. Planned compelled dress-outs are a form of strip search and are anticipated uses of force as described in policy 4.03.014 - Use of Force.

**Partial Compelled Dress-out:** The compelled removal of an uncooperative resident's footwear, belt and all layers of clothing except the subject's undergarments, socks and first layer of outer clothing, without inspection of the resident's body parts Partial Compelled Dress-out is not a form of strip search but is a use of force as described in policy 4.03.014 - Use of Force.

**Cool Down Period:** A period of time, determined by the Duty Sergeant of at least one (1) hour but not to exceed four (4) hours, during which a resident who refuses to dress into jail uniform, but who does not meet the requirement for an automatic strip search and agrees to remove all layers of clothing except for one layer, can be placed into an isolation cell for the purpose of avoiding the use of force during dress-out.

**Body cavity search:** The touching or probing of a person's stomach or rectum, or vagina of a female person whether or not there is actual penetration of the body cavity.

**Reasonable suspicion and probable cause:** The determination of whether reasonable suspicion or probable cause exists to conduct a strip search shall be based on a consideration of all information and circumstances known to the uniformed staff member authorizing the strip search. Factors that should be considered include:

1. The resident's prior criminal record
2. The nature of the offense for which the resident has been incarcerated
3. A history of concealing contraband of any type in the facility
4. Physically violent behavior
5. Statements from other residents

**Exigent Circumstances:** Any set of temporary and unforeseen circumstances that require immediate action in order to reduce or eliminate a threat to the security or institutional order of the facility.

## A. General Guidelines

1. All searches of residents, to include pat-down searches, compelled dress-outs, partial compelled dress-out, assisted dress outs and strip searches, will be conducted in a safe, secure and professional manner.
2. No search or dress-out of a resident, to include pat-down searches, compelled dress-outs, partial compelled dress-out and strip searches, shall be performed for punishment purposes.

3. Body cavity searches are prohibited.
4. All searches of transgender, transsexual, intersex, and gender variant persons shall be conducted in accordance with department policy 6.03.007 - Transgender Residents.

## B. Pat-Down Searches

1. Pat-down searches will only be performed by a uniformed staff member.
2. Pat-down searches of female residents shall be conducted by a female uniformed staff member unless there are exigent circumstances (refer to Section E. below).

## C. Automatic Strip Searches

1. A strip search is required under the following circumstances:
   a. Residents being booked or held in a post-conviction status.
   b. A resident being placed on close observation checks.
   c. Residents who were booked on warrants that stipulate "no bail/bond" and "no personal recognizance release".
   d. Residents arrested on an investigation, warrant or return from temporary release for any of the following crimes:
      1) 1st and 2nd degree aggravated murder
      2) 1st and 2nd degree murder
      3) 1st and 2nd degree manslaughter
      4) 1st degree arson
      5) 1st and 2nd degree assault
      6) 1st and 2nd degree burglary
      7) 1st and 2nd degree extortion
      8) Indecent liberties with forcible compulsion
      9) 1st degree kidnapping
      10) 1st and 2nd degree rape
      11) 1st degree statutory rape
      12) 1st and 2nd degree robbery
      13) Any felony arrest involving possession of a drug or controlled substance under Chapter 69.50 RCW or any successor statute.
      14) Any offense involving escape, burglary or the use of a deadly weapon.

## D. Individually Determined Strip Search

1. Except for residents covered under the automatic strip search category, no strip search or compelled dress-out may be conducted without the specific prior approval of the Sergeant or higher-ranking authority, which must be documented following the search.
2. The Sergeant may grant approval for a strip search, if, after a uniformed staff member makes reasonable efforts to conduct a pat-down, electronic detection device or clothing search, one of the following conditions apply:
   a. There is an individualized determination of reasonable suspicion to believe that a strip search is necessary to discover weapons, drugs, criminal evidence, or other contraband, concealed on the body of the resident to be searched, which constitutes a threat to the security and safety of the facility.
   b. There is an individualized determination of probable cause to believe that a strip search is necessary to discover other criminal evidence concealed on the body

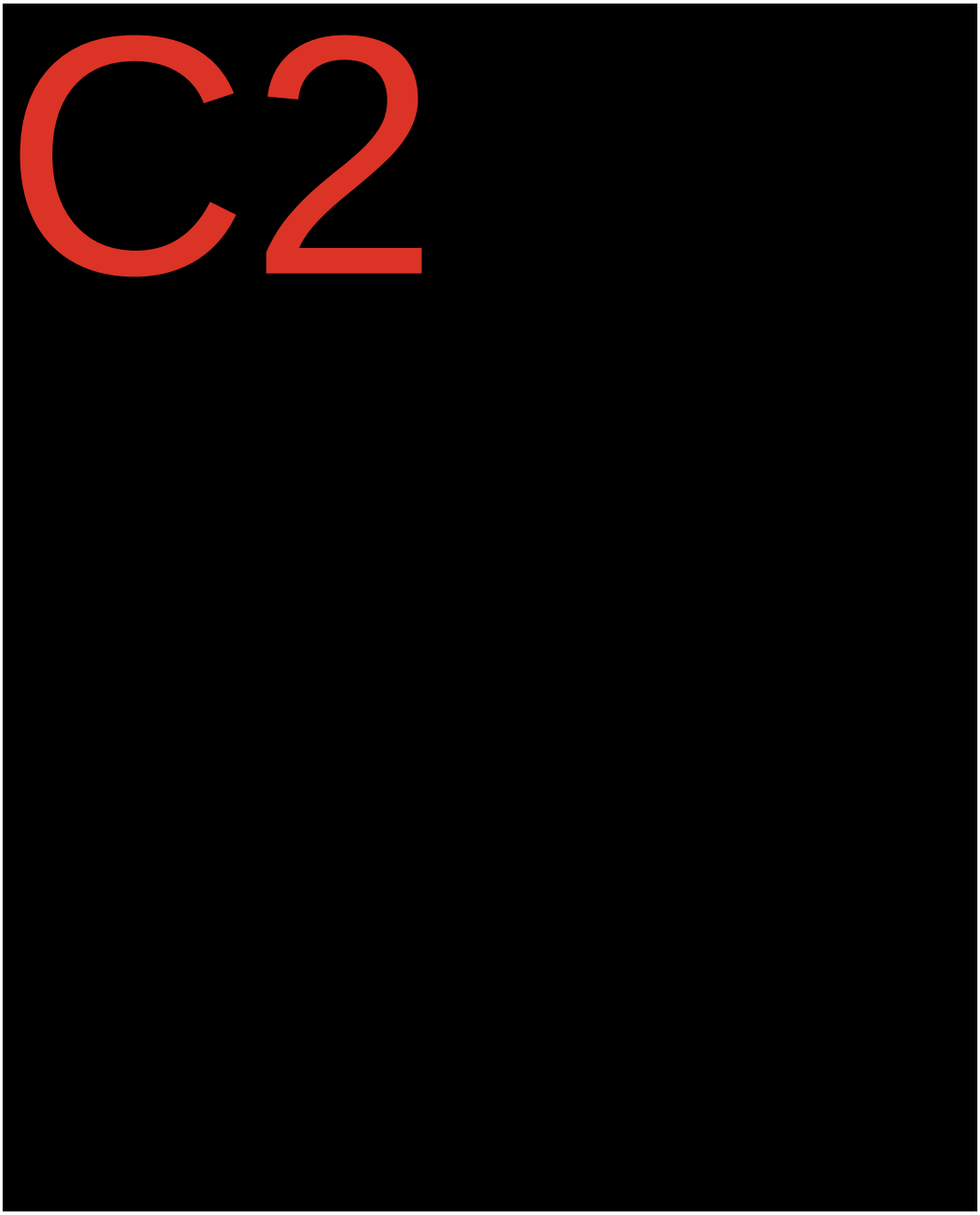
of the resident to be searched but does not constitute a threat to the safety and security of the facility.

c. There is reasonable suspicion to believe that a strip search is necessary to discover a health condition requiring immediate medical attention.

## E. Procedures for Conducting Strip Search

1. Unless there are exigent circumstances (refer to Section G below), a strip search shall be performed and observed only by uniformed staff members of the same gender as the individual being searched.
2. If a Sergeant is present during a strip search, they will either be of the same gender as the resident or be out of direct view of the resident being searched. Opposite gendered Sergeants/Supervisors shall not assist in the strip search, absent exigent circumstances. Exigent circumstances shall be documented.
3. All strip searches shall be conducted in a private area not exposed to observations by any person not physically conducting the search.
4. When possible, two uniformed staff members shall conduct strip searches.
5. No person shall be present during or observe the strip search unless necessary to conduct the search.
6. The uniformed staff member conducting a strip search shall not touch the person being searched, except as reasonably necessary to complete the strip search of the resident.
7. Uniformed staff members who are compelled into physical contact with a resident during a strip search and any staff who witness the event, shall document their actions or observations in an Officer's Report (F-627) or memorandum which will be forwarded through the chain of command.
8. The top identification portion and appropriate boxes of the strip search form must be completed in the JMS record of all new bookings, whether or not a strip search is actually conducted.
9. If a strip search is conducted, the JMS search record must be filled out completely by the uniformed staff member who conducted the search.
10. If contraband is observed which is contained within a body cavity while conducting the strip search or compelled dress-out, the resident shall be directed to retrieve the contraband and place it in an evidence bag provided by the uniformed staff member.
11. In the event the resident is unwilling or unable to retrieve the item, additional security measures shall be taken until such items can be retrieved.
12. The individual being searched shall be instructed to remove all of their clothing and hand it to the uniformed staff member.
13. During a strip search, all body parts shall be visually searched accordingly to ensure that no contraband is being hidden:

a.




**F. Compelled and Assisted Dress-Outs:**

1. Compelled dress-outs will not be conducted without the prior approval of the Sergeant or higher-ranking authority; such approval must be documented following the compelled dress-out.
2. During the intake process, if a resident refuses to comply with a directive to dress out into a jail uniform, a cool down period shall be used, unless individualized safety and security concerns necessitate an immediate compelled dress out (i.e., because of suspected weapons, drugs or other contraband on their person) as determined by the Sergeant. If after the cool down period the resident continues to refuse to

comply with directives to dress out into a jail uniform, a compelled dress out is authorized.

3. Compelled dress-outs outside of the intake process will only be performed based upon the Sergeant's individualized assessment that a compelled dress-out needs to be completed for safety and security reasons (i.e., changed into a suicide resistant smock, an Ultra-Security uniform, etc.). The Sergeant shall also make an individualized assessment as to if a cool down period is safe and practical.
4. The decision when and whether to use force for a compelled dress-out shall be in accordance with policy 4.03.014 - Use of Force.
5. All compelled dress-outs will be audio and video recorded following Department policies 4.01.023 - Video Recordings and 4.03.014 - Use of Force.
6. Assisted dress-outs do not need to be audio and video recorded.
7. Unless there are exigent circumstances (refer to Section G below), a compelled dress-out or assisted dress-out shall be performed and observed only by uniformed staff members of the same gender as the resident.
8. The Sergeant present during the compelled dress-out, should be of the same gender as the resident being searched or they will be out of direct view of the compelled dress-out. Opposite gendered Sergeants/Supervisors shall not assist in the compelled dress-out, absent exigent circumstances. Exigent circumstances shall be documented.
9. All compelled dress-outs or assisted dress-outs shall be conducted in as private an area as possible, that is not exposed to observations by any person not physically conducting the search.
10. No person shall be present during or observe a compelled dress-out, partial compelled or assisted dress-out unless necessary to conduct the compelled dress-out, or to video record the dress-out
11. If a compelled dress-out is completed, the JMS search record must be filled out completely by the uniformed staff member who conducted the dress out and has been designated to complete the record by the Sergeant.

## G. Opposite-Gender Searches and Dress-Outs

1. Opposite-gender strip searches, assisted dress-outs or compelled dress-outs of all residents are prohibited unless there are exigent circumstances as defined in this policy.
2. Opposite-gender pat-down searches of female residents are prohibited unless there are exigent circumstances as defined in this policy.
3. If the need for a search is not exigent, the resident should be isolated until such time as a uniformed staff member of the same gender is available. The department shall not restrict female residents' access to regularly available programming or other out of cell opportunities in order to comply with this requirement.
4. Uniformed staff members shall be trained in how to conduct opposite-gender pat searches, compelled dress-outs, assisted dress-outs and strip searches, to include opposite-gender searches of transgender, transsexual, intersex, and gender variant persons, in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs.
5. All opposite-gender searches shall be documented by the uniformed staff members(s)office involved and any staff who witnessed the search in an Officer's

Report (F-627) or memorandum. All reports shall be forwarded through the Chain-of-Command.